



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE-JULY 1989

FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

"United by Christ's Call"

God calls...

The people of God called into being...

The Church is called to be in mission...

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I am more and more aware that the Biblical message is a repeating of story after story of God's call and the response of God's people to be about mission.

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We are God's people. What a moving experience it was at the Annual Meeting where we rehearsed the birth of all of our churches, and got glimpses of the ministries of members and the tasks of mission in which our churches are engaged. We pray for and support all of you in your church life!

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General Synod in July in Ft. Worth was a full agenda in which many issues that were considered were examples of our being called to be in critical missions.

I hope you all will look carefully at the ways in which we are together called to be about God's mission.

Of course, we may not all agree on precise issues. Christ's call has drawn us to be followers of Jesus, though our responses to Him will differ.

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Let us, friends, remember we are all invited by Christ to be at the Table of the Lord.

At the Table, we talk, we share, we eat and we drink together, realizing our brokenness and poured-out manner of God's redeeming activity.

Christ is always inviting us to at the Table with him, in mission.

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--Roger Knight

* ANNUAL MEETING ADOPTS 1990 BUDGET, SET PRIORITIES * AND DELAYS PART OF NEW CONSTITUTION

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The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference convened June 9-11 at Emory University in Atlanta, and adopted a "living within our means" budget for 1990, set three new priorities and delayed implementation of part of the Constitution and By-Laws adopted in 1988.

About 225 delegates and visitors attended the three-day event, whose theme was "Bound Together: Family Ties."

Among events at the Annual Meeting were:

-- An appreciation banquet Saturday night for the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, 65, Associate Conference Minister, who was honored for his years of service with the Conference. He is currently on a six-month leave of absence.

-- A keynote address by the Rev. Scott Libbey, Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries. Rev. Libbey also preached at a Sunday morning worship service.

-- Ten workshops and five forums on Saturday and Sunday, which covered a wide range of issues and programs involving the life of the church.

-- A two-part presentation on the 300-year history and diversity of churches in the Southeast Conference, and a slide show highlighting the various missions of of those churches.

-- A celebration of the Southeast Conference's nominees to the General Synod "Celebrating the Gifts of Lay Women Award," Augusta L. Pettie, Euphemia Young and Eva Driscoll.

In addition, the Annual Meeting re-elected the Treasurer, Lenda Sherrell of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga; and elected a new Secretary, the Rev. Richard Woodward, pastor of Midway Congregational Church, Midway, Ga. Also elected were 16 new board members and alternates, and 18 members to the Conference's six new program Commissions.

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FIVE ELECTED TO NATIONAL UCC POSTS FROM CONFERENCE

General Synod 17 delegates elected Franklin Thomas as assistant moderator; Barbara Everett to the Executive Council; John Terry to the Council for Health and Welfare Services; and William Jackson and Mary Marshall to Board for Homeland Ministries. The Synod also voted to move UCC offices to Cleveland; reaffirmed freedom of choice and elected Paul Sherry as president.

CONFERENCE CALENDER

Aug. 11: South Alabama/Northwest Florida Association Committee meeting.

Aug. 13: Alabama-Tennessee Association Executive Committee meeting, Chattanooga.

Aug. 19: Church and Ministry Committee, Georgia-South Carolina Association, Atlanta.

Aug. 27: East Alabama Association Youth Cluster meeting.

Sept. 15-16: Alabama-Tennessee Association Annual Meeting, First United, Nashville.

Sept. 22-23: Georgia-South Carolina Association Annual Meeting.

Sept. 29-30: Board of Directors, Southeast Conference.

Oct. 7: North Alabama Association Annual Meeting, Trinity Caddo.

Oct. 13-15: Southern Regional Meeting, United Church of Christ Women, San Pedro Center, Winter Park, Fla. Contact Beverly Calbert, 404-289-5898, or the Conference office, 404-633-5655, for information.

October 14: South Alabama/Northwest Florida Association Annual Meeting.

Oct. 21: East Alabama Association Annual Meeting, Langdale.

Oct. 22: Central Alabama Association Annual Meeting, East Tallassee.

Nov. 4-5: Atlanta Youth Cluster, with Commission for Christian Social Justice, Atlanta UCC.

Nov. 26: Pulpit Exchange, Commission for Christian Social Justice.

Jan. 19-20: Board of Directors, Southeast Conference, Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.

Feb. 18: Hunger Luncheon, Commission for Christian Social Justice.

April 6-7: Board of Directors, Southeast Conference.

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ARTS & CRAFTS SALE

The Commission for Women in Church and Society will hold a craft sale at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Conference in Wadley, Ala., on June 8-10. Women from each church are asked to contribute \$20.00 in goods to the sale.

* ANNUAL MEETING/CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

* Also, the Annual Meeting passed a resolution, sponsored by United Black Christians, to join the boycott of Royal/Dutch Shell because of its business activities in South Africa.

* In its major business, the Annual Meeting passed a 1990 budget of \$238,025, which was described by Conference Minister Roger Knight as a "living within our means" budget that "will be very tight and has cutbacks in areas of needed service."

* In summary, the 1990 budget:

* -- increases Conference contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission by 50 percent, from \$12,000 to \$18,000.

* -- sets aside \$12,000 to support new and developing churches, also a 50 percent increase over 1989.

* -- designates \$7,200 for the program work of the six new Commissions, an increase of \$2,600 over the support for four Commissions previously.

* -- reduces by \$15,000 the support for staff positions in 1990, reducing program staff to one 3/4-time equivalent, other than for the Conference Minister and administrative staff, in accordance to the recommendations of the Personnel Committee.

* The 1990 budget projects 10 percent growth in OCWM contributions over the 1989 estimate, from \$179,420 to \$197,362. Income for the Church Builders Club is estimated at \$5,500.

* Reflected in the budget were the three Conference priorities for 1990 which were adopted by the Board of Directors and by the Annual Meeting.

* The three priority areas approved were:

- * 1. Church Development
- * 2. Stewardship
- * 3. Programming for churches and leaders.

* In all three areas, pastoral development will be integral.

* The Annual Meeting also postponed the implementation of the new Constitution, which had been adopted in 1988 but not officially implemented.

* The action was taken after the Nominating Committee raised concern that the size of the new Board of Directors was financially impossible. The Annual Meeting postponed those portions of the Constitution which dealt with size of membership on each board and Commission.

* At a Board of Directors meeting Sunday, Moderator Barbara Everett proposed a Constitution Study Committee which the Board approved. Franklin Thomas will chair the committee comprised of Michael Roberts, Jeff Simmons, Frances Bryant, J.T. Lowery, Jimmy Pilkinton and Mary Brueggemann.

* Elected to the Board of Directors was Don Klinefelt, Pilgrim Church of Chattanooga, as at-large member, and 12 Association representatives and six alternatives. Eighteen persons were elected to fill three Conference positions on the six new Commissions.

NEW BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS ELECTED

The following 12 persons were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference June 9-11:

- Alabama-Tennessee Association: James Norris and Shirley Tucker. Alternative: Curtis Shumaker.
- East Alabama Association: Lela Allen and Art Daily. Alternative: Nelson Kittle.
- Central Alabama Association: Ken Keppel and Challis Rhodes. Alternative: Wayne Burton.
- Georgia-South Carolina Association: Darlene Johnson and Marvin Morgan. Alternative: Franklin Thomas.
- North Alabama Association: J.T. Lowery and Jesse Wallace. Alternative: George Washington.
- South Alabama/NW Florida Association: Marvin Brand and James Courtney. Alternative: Mrs. Marvin Brand.

Elected to the six Commissions were:

- Church and Ministry: Wade Washburn, chair; Essie Buskey and Deborah Crockett.
 - Stewardship and OCWM: Trudy Braun, chair; Bill Jackson and Don Harmon.
 - Church Development and Evangelism: Jim Smalley; Deborah Roberts and Fred Nixon.
 - Social Justice: Judy Manning, chair; John Lackey and Mollie Reed.
 - Christian Education: Dorothy DeVillers, chair; Diane Steinig and Herb Young.
 - Women in Church and Society: Shirley Higgins, chair; Leigh Greenhaw and Richard Ward.
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APPOINTMENTS TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors approved the following appointments to Conference committees at its meeting June 11:

- Personnel Committee: James Myers, chair; Jim Norris, Roger Jones, Libby Scott and James Mason.
- Finance Committee: Roy Bain, chair; Lenda Sherrell, Ann Pickens and Alexis Reeves.
- Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Francis Smith, chair; Bill Green, Mitch Johnson and Louise Cox.
- Executive Committee At-Large Members: Arthur Daley, Darlene Johnson and James Myers..
- Nominating Committee: Mary Brueggemann, chair; Bob Peebles, Ernestine Holiday, Bill Tweed and Bill Jackson.

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Conference Prayer Schedule: Aug. 6, Pleasant Hill Community Church and Uplands Retirement Village; Aug. 13, Woodbury-Jones Chapel and Columbus United Church.

* SPARKING WITNESS TO OUR NEIGHBORS NEEDS * SOUTHERN REGIONAL RETREAT SEPT. 29-OCT. 1 *

Plans are being finalized for the Southern regional "Sparking Witness to Our Neighbors Needs" arts retreat at Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, Ga., Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

During the weekend, two youth and two young adults from each of the region's Conferences will have an opportunity to further develop their interest and ability in dance, or visual arts, or music, while studying the retreat's theme.

Expenses for the participants will be paid by a Neighbors in Need grant. The grants set out that participants should be: 1) Special attention to persons from racial/ethnic communities and churches. 2). Directly involved in needs and issues to be addressed. 3). Youth and young adults who have an established interest and beginning expertise in the arts.

The goal is for the participants to have an opportunity to learn more about their particular interest in the arts in relation to justice themes and how they might share their learning with others in their community.

If you are interested, please submit your name, address and telephone number, to the the Conference office by July 31. Please contact Sandye Mullins at the Conference office at 404-633-5655 for more information.

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* TORNADOS DAMAGE ELON HOMES *

A tornado touched down on the campus of Elon Homes in North Carolina on June 16, destroying two farm buildings and damaging several other buildings.

Though most of the damage will be covered by insurance, Walstein Snyder, chief executive officer of the Homes, said that about \$25,000 will be needed to cover tree removal and damage insurance will not pay.

If churches have emergency funds available they are requested to send them to the Tornado Fund, Elon Homes for Children, Post Office Box 157, Elon College, NC 27244-9988.

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* OFFICE EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR CONFERENCE *

The Equipment Task Force reports the following needs for the Conference office: new PC, \$4,000; laser printer, \$2,000; fax machine \$1,000 and new electronic typewriter, \$750. The equipment is needed to perform the work of Conference more efficiently.

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FAITHWORKS: UCC EXPERIENCE 1990 SET FOR JUNE 25-29, 1990, IN BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

At last, a big gathering for all United Church of Christ folks. As some would say, UCC Experience 1990: Faith Works is a "y'all come" gathering. Unlike many UCC meetings with delegates designated to make decisions on behalf of others, this gathering is for all to be together without decision making. So if you are part of the United Church of Christ, you are invited to participate.

Lay or clergy, old-timer or newcomer, alone or with a group from your local church or conference, we want you to join with the thousands of other UCC folks at Indiana University, Bloomington, to discover and celebrate life together in the name of Jesus Christ.

UCC Experience 1990: Faith Works will be a time for worship, learning, recreation and community activities. At the beginning of each day, the whole community will gather for prayer and Bible study, and each evening's worship will witness to the reality of the theme "Faith Works." In between, you will be able to choose from more than 150 workshops and classes. Whether you're interested in Bible study, theological reflection, watching movies, participating in liturgical dance, or just being together

with other UCC folks, there will be something for you. Browse in the bookstore, tap your foot to a musical performance, or play ball - all as part of UCC Experience 1990.

Meeting dates: Monday evening through Friday, June 25-29. Event ends at 10 p.m., so plan departure for June 30.

Location: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Costs: \$160 to Indiana University includes a dorm room and board, Monday dinner through Saturday breakfast. Motels and camping are also available at varying costs.

\$65 registration fee includes admission to all events, program book, all workshop materials, basic meeting materials, and use of basic recreational facilities.

Child care and educational opportunities for children will be available.

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FAITH'S JOURNEY 1990 FOR YOUTH

High school youth who wish to explore possibilities of UCC ministries are invited to attend Faith's Journey 1990, July 1-14, at Eden Seminary. Information: (314) 961-3627.

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